MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW,

MAY, 1876.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Office of the Chief Signal Officer,

DIVISION OF

TELEGRAMS AND REPORTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE.

INTRODUCTION.

In compiling the present Review, the following data have been made use of, viz: The charts constructed from the simultaneous observations taken at eighty-eight Signal Service, U. S. Army, stations, and fourteen Canadian stations, at 7:35 a. m., 4:35 p. m., and 11 p. m., daily, Washington mean time, and telegraphed to this office immediately afterward; monthly meteorological records of observations, taken at 465 stations, including those from the Volunteer Observers, U. S. Naval Hospitals, U. S. Army Post Hospitals, Canadian stations and Signal Service stations; reliable newspaper extracts; special reports from various sections of the country; and Marine Records.

The most noticeable features of the month are: the barometric pressure averages higher than usual in the sections east of the Rocky Mountains; the frequent occurrence of tornadoes, especially those of the 6th in Kansas, Illinois and Indiana; the temperature averages nearly 4° below the normal in the St. Lawrence valley, and 2°.5 above in the Lower Lake region; late frosts in Mississippi and Tennessee; large excess of rain-fall in the Western Gulf States, Tennessee and Upper Mississippi valley; severe snow-storms along Lake Superior, on Pike's Peak, and in Utah, Montana and Wyoming Territories; very few reports of droughts; the destructive thunder and hail-storms; ice-fields in Lake Superior, Straits of Mackinaw, Gulf of St. Lawrence, and near St. Johns, Newfoundland; grasshoppers in Minnesota, Dakota, Wyoming and Montana; aurora of the 25th.

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE.

In General.—Upon chart No. II is represented the general distribution of the atmospheric pressure by the isobaric curves, in black. Of the mean barometric readings received after the printing of the chart, the following are given, viz: Fort Benton, 29.92; Virginia City, 29.66; Pike's Peak, 29.97; Santa Fé, 29.78; Fort Sully, 29.84 inches. (The data on the chart refer to Colorado Springs and not to Pike's Peak.) Along the South Atlantic coast it averages unusually high for the month. Compared with May, 1874, the pressure for May, 1876, averages higher from Lake Superior to the Lower Lakes, in the St. Lawrence valley, New Brunswick, New England, Middle States, Ohio valley, Tennessee, South Atlantic States, Gulf States, (except Texas,) and Oregon; slightly lower from Texas to Colorado, Wyoming, Dakota and the Upper Mississippi valley; about the same in California, Utah and Nova Scotia.

The same, compared with May, 1875, is greater from .01 to .03 of an inch for the Pacific coast, .01 to .05 in the valley of the Red River of the North, .01 to .06 in the Upper Mississippi valley, .01 to .10 in the Missouri valley and Upper Lake region, .03 to .10 in the Lower Lake region, .02 to .07 in the Ohio valley and Tennessee, .01 to .06 in the Gulf States, .06 to .08 in the South Atlantic States, .05 to .09 in the Middle States, .01 to .07 in New England, .10 in Nova Scotia, .02 in New Brunswick and Indian Territory, and .06 to .09 in the St. Lawrence valley; it is .01 of an inch less for stations in Utah and Wyoming; for those in Colorado it varies from .02 of an inch above to .02 below. Some of the greatest barometric ranges, reduced to sea-level, are for Fort Sully, 1.46; Dodge City, 1.37; Eastport, 1.31; Bismarck, 1.30; North Platte, 1.25; Breckenridge, 1.22; Yankton, 1.20; Mt. Washington, 1.15; Omaha, 1.06; Pembina, 1.04; Portland, Me., 1.02 inches. Among the least ranges are for Key West, .34; San Francisco, .38; Augusta, .44; San Diego, St. Marks and Mobile, .45; Lexington, .47; Louisville, Montgomery and New Orleans, .48; Knoxville and Tybee Island, Ga., .49; Charleston and Savannah, .50 inches.